

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 OPR-02
SCS-06 SY-05 PC-01 IO-13 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CA-01 PM-05
SP-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 /127 W
-----074949 220329Z /63/11

O 200935Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9831
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1550
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCRE MACDILL AFB FL/RCJ2 IMMEDIATE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING E.O., TAGS AND SUBJECT LINES)

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK - SITREP 6 (MAY 20, 1978)

1. STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

A. FIRST REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM KOLWEZI DO NOT CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE 13 AMERICAN CITIZENS BELIEVED TO BE IN KOLWEZI. HOWEVER, BEFORE THE PARATROOP DROP TOOK PLACE, MORRISON-KNUDSOM IN KANANGA HAD REOPORTED MAKING RADIO CONTACT WITH THE TWO AMERICAN MISSIONARY FAMILIES IN KOLWEZI, THE EVENING OF MAY 18. THIS WAS OUR ONLY INDICATION THAT AT LEAST 8 OF THE 13 AMCITS IN KOLWEZI WERE ALIVE AND WELL AS OF THAT TIME.

2. MILITARY SITUATION

A. 450 FRENCH PARATROOPS LANDED IN KOLWEZI AT 1600 LOCAL TIME MAY 19. THE SECOND WAVE OF PARATROOPS DID NOT GO INTO KOLWEZI AS PLANNED LATER ON MAY 19, BUT WERE SCHEDULEDSTO GO THERE EARLY MAY 20. THE INITIAL DROP ZONE WAS LOCATED NORTH OF THE OLD TOWN. ACCORDING TO FRENCH MISSION CHIEF COL. GRAS (WHO WAS IN FLYING COMMAND POST OVER KOLWEZI), THE FRENCH ENGAGED IN NEAVY FIGHTING SOUTHEAST OF THE GENDARME CAMP AND IN THE NEW TOWN, AND LIBERATED TWENTY HOSTAGES AT TECHNICAL SCHOOL. ALL ORGANIZED FLNC UNITS LEFT KOLWEZI MORNING OF MAY 19 EXCEPT FOR SMALL ELEMENTS. ONE MOTORIZED COMPANY DESCRIBED

BY SOME INHABITANTS OF KOLWEZI AND BY ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY AS CUBAN (POSSIBLY BLACK), REPORTEDLY FLED THE TOWN EARLY MAY 19. LATER INFORMATION INDICATES THAT MILITARY UNIT THOUGHT BY CIVILIAN

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OBSERVORS TO BE CUBAN WAS PROBABLY ANGOLAN. ONE FAZ PANHARD CAPTURED BY THE INVADERS DURING THE FIGHTING WAS STILL MANEUVERING IN THE ZONE. THE FRENCH SUSTAINED THREE JUMP INJURIES, ONE SERIOUS.

B. FRENCH SOURCES SAID THE SITUATION IN KOLWEZI WAS AS BAD AS FEARED, ESTIMATING THAT AS MANY AS 60 PEOPLE (NATIONALITY NOT INDICATED) HAD BEEN EXECUTED. MOST OR ALL OF THOSE EXECUTED WERE CONDEMNED BY "PEOPLES' COURTS," WHICH STARTED FUNCTIONING SOON AFTER CITY TAKEN OVER. HE SAID SIX FRENCH MILITARY ADVISERS REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE REBELS.

C. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 19 THAT BELGIAN TROOPS WOULD JOIN FRENCH ON GROUND IN KOLWEZI.

D. THE FIRST OF 10 USAF C-141 AIRCRAFT DESIGNATED TO FLY SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR FRENCH PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT HAS MET ITS SCHEDULE. THE FIRST OF THESE MISSIONS SCHEDULED FOR LANDING AT LUBUMBASHI IS TO ARRIVE THERE AT 0700 ZULU 20 MAY. THE LAST FLIGHT IS EXPECTED IN LUBUMBASHI AT 1130 ZULU MAY 21.

E. THE FIRST OF 8 USAF C-141 AIRCRAFT DESIGNATED TO FLY POL AND EQUIPMENT SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR THE BELGIAN OPERATION ARRIVED 1430 ZULU AT KAMINA MAY 19.

3. TROOP DEPLOYMENT

A. HOSTILE FORCES. THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF FLNC TROOPS STILL PRESENT IN KOLWEZI IS NOT KNOWN.

B. ZAIRIAN FORCES. MAJOR MAYELE, THE FAZ COMMANDER OF THE FORCES WHICH RETOOK KOLWEZI AIRPORT, WAS ORDERED NOT TO MOVE INTO THE CITY BEFORE THE FRENCH DROP. FAZ UNITS WILL BE RESPONSIBLES FOR CLEARING ZAIRIAN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AFTER THE FRENCH HAVE SECURED EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOODS.

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AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CA-01 PM-05
SP-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 /127 W
-----060482 201208Z /43

O 200935Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9832

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1551

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

4. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

A. THE CALM THAT HAS PREVAILED IN KINSHASA SINCE THE ONSET OF THE SHABA ATTACK HAS CONTINUED WITH ONLY A FEW INTERRUPTIONS. ON MAY 19 THERE WERE GOZ-INSPIRED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE EMBASSIES OF COUNTRIES BLAMED FOR AIDING THE ATTACKERS; THE USSR, ALGERIA AND LIBYA (KINSHASA 5039).

B. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN KINSHASA REMAIN AS STATED IN SITREP 4. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTED THAT AIRPORT SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED WITH ACCESS TO THE TARMAC STRICTLY REGULATED AND IN MOST CASES FORBIDDEN.

C. LUBUMBASHI REPORTED EARLY MAY 19 THAT THE CITY HAD REMAINED QUIET DURING THE LAST 24 HOURS. THE BORDER WITH ZAMBIA IS OPEN. ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON MAY 18, RUMORS WERE CIRCULATING IN LUBUMBASHI THAT THE BELGIANS HAD ALREADY LANDED AT KOLWEZI. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 IT WAS STILL WIDELY BELIEVED THAT EITHER THE FRENCH OR THE BELGIANS (RATHER THAN ZAIRIANS) TOOK KOLWEZI AIRPORT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY WESTERN INTERNATIONAL RADIO STATIONS THAT BELGIUM, FRANCE, THE UK AND THE US WERE MOUNTING AN AIRBORNE RESCUE MISSION WAS GREETED NOT WITH SURPRISE BUT WITH SCEPTICISM.

D. IN LUBUMBASHI THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF WESTERN INTERVENTION REPORTEDLY PROVIDED MUCH CHAGRIN, SHOWING THE WEST ONCE AGAIN SHORING UP THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT. CERTAIN INTELLECTUALS COMMENT CYNICALLY THAT WESTERN FORCES ARE INVOLVED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAVING KAMINA, WHICH THEY CALL A NATO BASE. EVEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE SAID TO BE DISAPPOINTED AT WESTERN INTERVENTION. THEY SEE IT AS A HYPOCRITICAL ACT: ON ONE HAND, THEIR BELGIAN TEACHERS ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAND UP TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR RIGHTS WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND,

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THE WEST STEPS IN ONCE AGAIN TO SAVE THE GOVERNMENT. THE POPULACE IS GROWING INCREASINGLY DISCONTENTED BY THE SHARP RISE IN PRICES OF BASIC GOODS (E.G. MANIOC LEAVES) OVER PAST THREE DAYS. MOREOVER, LOCAL REPORTS ARE THAT SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SEIZING AND BEATING PRIVATELY-EMPLOYED SENTINELS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN (THURSDAY NIGHT).

E. REPORTS FROM OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY REMAIN SKETCHY. AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL TRAVELING IN BANDUNDU NOTED GENERAL UNEASE AMONG THE POPULATION THERE. TRAVEL ALONG THE MAIN ARTERIES OF THE COUNTRY IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF MILITARY ROADBLOCKS.

5. PRESS GUIDANCE. NO CHANGE.

6. DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE, MORNING, FRIDAY MAY 19.

A. FRENCH-LANGUAGE BROADCASTING ON THE VOICE OF ZAIRE REPORTED PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S MAY 18 AFTERNOON FLYING VISIT TO THE AIRPORT AT KOLWEZI, WHERE HE INSPECTED THE TROOPS WHO LIBERATED THE AIRPORT AND WAS SHOWN THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE ATTACK.

B. RADIO REPORTING IN KIKONGO AND LINGALA REPORTED "WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS OF SYMPATHY AND LOYALTY TO MOBUTU THROUGH-OUT ZAIRE..." IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO CALLED FOR OAU MEMBERS TO SUPPORT MOBUTU, AND THAT FRENCH PRIME MINISTER BARRE HAS SAID ZAIRE IS THE VICTIM OF FOREIGN POWERS' DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS.

C. ELIMA'S EDITORIAL COMMENT RETURNS TO THE "IRONIC" OBSERVATION THAT BELGIAN CITIZENS ARE IN MORTAL DANGER IN KOLWEZI FROM FORCES LED BY PEOPLE WHO "HAVE BEEN GIVEN ASYLUM IN BELGIUM." THE SAME EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE IRRITATION ZAIRIANS FEEL IN THE FACE OF "CONTINUED PROVOCATION" BY ALGERIA AND LIBYA. "THE ONE EXALTS THE WORKS OF DESTRUCTION UNDERTAKEN BY THE KATANGAN EX-GENDARMES

,"

THE EDITORIAL NOTES, "WHILE THE OTHER DECLARES ITS READINESS TO ADVANCE LOGISTICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE EVERN FURTHER." THE

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EDITORIAL CONTINUES WITH STRONG PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST BOUMEDIENNE AND QADDAFI, CALLING THEM "UNPRECEDENTED PURVEYORS OF FUNDS FOR STATE TERRORISM," AND "UNCONDITIONAL VALETS OF MOSCOW."

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AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CA-01 PM-05
SP-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 /127 W
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O 200935Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9833

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

7. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

A. ACCORDING TO RABAT'S 2980 (NOTAL) MOROCCO IS CONSIDERING JOINING IN AN EFFORT WITH SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, GABON AND MAURITANIA TO PROVIDE TOKEN PEACEKEEPING FORCES. OTHER AFRICAN STATES HAVE ALSO BEEN REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE. PRESUMABLY THESE AFRICAN FORCES WOULD REPLACE THE EUROPEAN TROOPS USED IN THE KOWEZI RESCUE OPERATION. RABAT RADIO LATER READ THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE FROM KING HASSAN TO PRESIDENT BONGO, CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU, OFFERING TO ORGANIZE AND TRANSPORT SUCH AN OAU FORCE TO

ZAIRE.

B. ZAIRE RADIO ANNOUNCED MORNING OF MAY 20 THAT ZAIRE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN RECALLED. NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN WHETHER THE RECALL WAS FOR CONSULTATIONS OR WHETHER IT PRESAGED A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

C. AS NOTED ABOVE, GROUPS OF PERHAPS 150 ZAIRIAN YOUTHS FROM COUNTRY'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY MARCHED UPON ALGERIAN, LIBYAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES IN KINSHASA MAY 19. SOVIET AND ALGERIAN EXBASSIES SUFFERED BROKEN WINDOWS AS A RESULT OF STONES HURLED BY DEMONSTRATORS. SOVIET CHARGE WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE PROTESTED THIS INCIDENT AT ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SAME AFTERNOON. OFFICIAL REACTION OF ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN AMBASSADORS NOT YET KNOWN.

D. MOSCOW RADIO ON MAY 18 DECLARED THAT US HAD ADOPTED AN INTERVENTIONIST POLICY BY INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ZAIRE, POINTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. MOSCOW 11128 (NOTAL) REPORTED TASS STATEMENT ACCUSING UNNAMED "IMPERIALIST FORCES" OF SPREADING FALSEHOODS REGARDING SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN SHABA FIGHTING IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY WESTERN INTERFERENCE.

E. THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY KINSHASA HAS CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTE TO ALL EMBASSIES CONTAINING TEXT OF MESSAGE ON SHABA FIGHTING SENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU, M'BOUMOUA. MESSAGE SPOKE OF COUNTRIES WHICH USED ALLEGED FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS TO CONCEAL INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND REASSERTED ALGERIA'S ADHERENCE TO OAU PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

F. KIGALI 0745 (NOTAL) REPORTED AMBASSADOR CRIGLER'S MAY 18 MEETING WITH RWANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER NSEKALIJE TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN SHABA. RWANDANS WERE "GRATIFIED" AT FRENCH, BELGIAN, AND US RESPONSE TO MOBUTU'S APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE, IN PARTICULAR US PLACING 82ND AIRBORNE UNITS ON ALERT. THEY WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SUPPORT SEEMED TO BE "WILTING" AND THAT IF SHABA FELL, "RWANDA COULD NOT LONGER HAVE CONFIDENCE IN US AND WESTERN ALLIES.

G. TRIPOLI 0729 (NOTAL) REPORTS LIBYAN RADIO ACCOUNT OF PROTEST DELIVERED TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR BY FOREIGN SECRETARIAT IN TRIPOLI. LIBYANS STATED THAT IT WAS "REGRETABLE" THAT AFRICAN REGIMES SUFFERING INTERNAL PROBLEMS SHOULD RESORT TO ACCUSATIONS OF INTERFENCE BY OTHER NATIONS.

H. MONROVIA 3680 (NOTAL) AND MONROVIA 3681 (NOTAL) REPORTED ON AMBASSADOR CARTER'S MEETING MAY 19 WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT. THE PRESIDENT WAS "ELATED" AT POSITIVE ACTION REPRESENTED BY THE ONGOING WESTERN OPERATION IN SHABA. HE ALSO STATED HIS INTERVENTION TO SEND LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE DAVID WILMOT TO CONSULT WITH MOBUTU AND EXPRESS LIBERIA'S SUPPORT. WILMOT, WHOSE EXACT SCHEDULE WILL DEPEND UPON MOBUTU'S AVAILABILITY, WILL ALSO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON (OAU CHAIRMAN) DURING HIS TRIP.

I. ACCORDING TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA HAS DECLARED HIS SUPPORT OF FRENCH ACTION IN ZAIRE AS WELL AS

OF OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO'S APPEAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE OAU TO COME TO
THE AID OF ZAIRE.

8. PETROLEUM SITUATION - NO CHANGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA05068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780219-0357
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780538/aaaabftb.tel
Line Count: 390
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d70179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2629738
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA ATTACK - SITREP 6 (MAY 20, 1978)
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG, FR, BE
To: STATE ALGIERS
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d70179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014